

DELAY UPON DELAY IN DRY LAW TRIALS

Lack of Judges and Other Causes Show Need of Separate Court.

Handling of prohibition cases continues to prove an arduous task in the District Police Court, and time intervening between arrests and the final disposition of cases dealing with

The long delays daily experienced in the handling of these cases, which tie up the other business of the courts.

Judges on the bench are of like opinion, but decline to speak for publication. The fear that some one will think that selfishly they are trying to lighten their own burdens seems to prevail.

From 11:30 o'clock Thursday morning to 6 o'clock in the evening, with half an hour off for lunch, two cases were tried. In one against Edward Scott colored, for selling liquor, the verdict was returned by the jury a

Monday was delayed until next Wednesday. In the other against James P. Dixon, colored, the verdict brought in was for acquittal. Both these cases were recent violations.

• **Several Sentenced or Fined.**

Yesterday the jury was dismissed until 1:15 o'clock in the afternoon, and sentences were imposed by Judge Hardison for cases tried many months be-

summer. Caesar de Caesar was fined \$50 for unlawful possession, and Frederick Cook was sentenced to six months for selling and fined \$500 for transporting; John Smith, six months for selling; and Walter Wade Davis, two months and \$300 for making a handbook.

Attorney for the last three asked for a motion for a new trial and writ of error by the Court of Appeals. The three men were released on bonds.

Archib Brown, charged with violation of the Volstead act, forfeited \$400 by his appearance.

Delays in the trying of cases are caused in this manner: When first arraigned the plea of not guilty is entered.

The case is set again, and maybe postponed. The witness is summoned to the bench in the lower court, or perhaps is on a vacation. A new judge is assigned to the case. The judge doesn't know anything about the case. The case is again postponed until the former judge returns back. Then, as often in the case, the remaining legal delays and the sentence is imposed. The trial is withdrawn, and a plea of guilty entered. The case then comes back to the court. The remaining delays and the sentence is imposed. A motion for a new trial is made and another case is postponed.

The happening, however, mentioned here are not exceptions, but almost constant.

states Attorney Heffernan recommending that the defendant be charged with the possible plea guilty and ask for light fine, just so the case could be closed. Heffernan said that the defendant was almost impossible to get convictions by juries.

That that comparatively small number of convictions are returned by the jury is the attitude of the jury, and the attitude of the former talks with me interview, and the attorney, it was disclosed that their decision to recommend a light fine was on the credibility of the defendant, especially the law enforcement officers, and the fact that the defendant's statement of a policeman in interview, revenue agent indicates a frame-up.

That the defendant is a frame-up tactics in getting into the hands of the arrest of a violator of the law, and the defendant is a frame-up.

The case of Edward Hooks, colored.

sion, transporting and selling, was brought up for court trial yesterday afternoon. The case was continued until today because one of the internal revenue officers was absent. Today Hooks entered a plea of not guilty, and stated that the case was a "frame up." According to his testimony, an attempt was made to get him to procure some whiskey, which he refused to do. Later, he stated, he was arrested and told he had sold some whiskey, and that if he admitted it he would get off with a light fine. The case was again continued, this time to Monday, for the purpose of hearing the testimony of some of his

Clarence Burroughs was brought before Judge McMahon a few minutes later, charged with transporting twenty-four half gallons of whiskey. He entered a plea of not guilty and demanded a jury trial. The date of this trial or the time it is supposed to come up will be posted.

Summing up the whole situation one official declared, "The Police Court are in bad shape. Our officials have declared that unless something is done to prevent the unnecessary delays he will ask to be transferred to some other line of duty."

It is stated that there is at present a bill before Congress to give the judges of the Court of Claims power to try federal cases, including violations of the Volstead act. This is, in the mind of certain officials, one way to remedy Police Court conditions.

There is no doubt in the minds of any of the officials, or those in regular contact with the Police Court, that

**BUILDING INSPECTORS
GET KELLER'S WARNING**

All inspectors in the building department of the District government have been told by Engineer Commissioner Keller that hereafter no building shall be approved until the building regulations have been complied with literally.

The conference was held in the Engineer Commissioner's office, following which the Engineer Commissioner said the building inspector's office is not to be criticised. While the office may not have enough men, he said, those who are in the service are intelligent and capable.

Col. Keller said the committee of experts he appointed to examine thoroughly all playhouses in Washington is progressing in its work.

"No statement will be made in regard to this work," the colonel said, "until it is completed."

THIEVES FLYING TRADED.

Miss Fannie Rudolph, 3713 Keokuk street, last night asked the police to investigate the theft of \$50 from her handbag. She said the money was taken while she was attending a reception at 14th and Girard street, St. Louis.

An unidentified young white man "jimmied" the door of the apartment of Miss Jessie Clayton, at 1127 1/2 North 11th street, at 11:15 p. m. He was frightened from the apartment but before he had made a success of his undertaking.

Miss Margaret E. Sheetre, 1145 Courtneight avenue, reported that an unidentified man, night burglar, had gained entrance to her premises by climbing over a fence at 10 o'clock by removing a grating from a rear window. The place was ransacked, but nothing taken.